

Wycombe Outplayed In Cup Semi-Final

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Maidenhead 2.

AFTER 120 minutes of not very thrilling football at New-road, Chesham on Saturday, Wycombe Wanderers and Maidenhead return there tomorrow to replay this Berks and Bucks Senior Cup semi-final. But had there been a result it should have gone to Maidenhead who looked the better side right up to the end of 90 minutes.

It was only in extra-time that the Wanderers came into their own—because they were the fitter side.

Had it not been for a great display in the Wycombe goal by John Maskell, Maidenhead would have had a bagful. But time after time Maskell, who played for the F.A. Amateur XI the previous Wednesday, pulled off saves that brought roars of approval from both sets of supporters.

Except for the fact that centre-half Ian Rundle had a sound game, that is about all that can be said for Wycombe's performance.

Maidenhead, who head the premier section of the Athenian League, played strong, direct football from the start.

A series of brilliant saves by Maskell kept them at bay until a minute before half-time when they deservedly went ahead through centre-forward Mullen who shot home from close-range while the Wycombe defence was in a heck of a muddle.

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But before the Maidenhead cheers had died down, Wanderers were surprisingly on terms. From the restart the ball was banged out to the right. Merrick beat his man, centred and there was Keith Samuels heading the ball out of Reynolds' hands into the net.

Wycombe played just as badly in the second-half. One of the best shots came from left-half Charlie Gale, and about the only time centre-forward Paul Bates went near was from a well-placed free-kick which Reynolds injured himself saving.

Wycombe's forwards lacked punch, and never looked as dangerous in their isolated raids as did the Maidenhead front line. Tony Horseman was their best attacker, but raids which he tried to set in motion came to nothing more often than not.

If a goalkeeper can be blamed for missing a 30-yard shot, then Maskell was at fault with Maidenhead's second goal. But off hand I can't think of many 'keepers who would have saved it.

Little left-winger Wise made a good run down the right and his dangerous cross was cleared to Peter Brinsden, who let fly from more than 30 yards. The ball never rose more than two feet off the ground before bulging the net. It was a fine shot.

It was fitting that Horseman should score the second equaliser. Bradshaw floated a long centre over and the diving Reynolds failed to gather the ball on the half-volley. It bounced clear

to the inside-left, who gratefully accepted the chance.

As the game progressed into extra time Maidenhead began to wilt for the first time, and Wycombe made repeated raids on the Athenian side's goal.

After Maskell and Bradshaw foiled two initial attacks, Wanderers came into their own. Samuels just missed a flying header, and Peter Roystone went neat with a header from a Merrick corner.

Gale should have clinched it in the second period of extra time, but he headed a Bates corner wide from in front of goal.

Then Horseman missed a chance, being robbed of the ball on the goal-line after a good dribble in which he beat Reynolds.